

REMARKS

I. Status of the Application

Claims 1-28, 30, 31, 65-79, and 81-99 are pending. Claims 19, 28, and 68 are amended. Claim 99 is added. Claims 1-18, 28, 30, 31, 65, 79, 81-85, 87-89 and 96-98 have been allowed. Claims 24, 27, 70-78, 86, 91, and 94 have been objected to.

II. Claim Objections

Claim 28 has been objected to because of the presence of an extra period (.). Claim 28 has been amended to remove the period.

The Examiner is thanked for noting this informality. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

III. Claim Rejections

A. U.S. Patent No. 5,432,499A (“Ferut”)

Claims 19-23, 25, 26, 66, 67, and 95 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,432,499A (“Ferut”).

Independent claim 19 has been amended to require that the body portion be configured to be mechanically connected to a magnetic resonance imaging system “during imaging.” Claim 68 has been similarly amended. Claim 19 has also been amended to remove limitations considered to be unnecessary in light of the addition of “during imaging.” The limitations removed from claim 19 have been added in new claim 99, which is dependent on claim 19.

In Ferut, “in order to calibrate or troubleshoot MRI imaging system 10, a special test fixture 50 is placed on table cradle 18 within the magnet assembly 12,” as shown in Fig. 1. (Col. 3, lines 62-65). The mounting plate 54, which the Examiner considers to be a body portion, is clamped to the table cradle 18. (Id.) No structure is identified on the fixture to facilitate such

clamping. The body portion in Ferut is not, therefore, configured to be mechanically connected to the table, as claimed.

Furthermore, since the test fixture 50 in Ferut is in the imaging volume, clamped to the surface (the table cradle 18) that would support a patient during normal operation, the test fixture 50 cannot remain clamped to the table cradle 18 during imaging. The test fixture is not, therefore, configured to be mechanically coupled to the system during imaging, as claimed.

Claims 19 and 68 and the claims dependent upon them are not, therefore, anticipated by Ferut.

Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

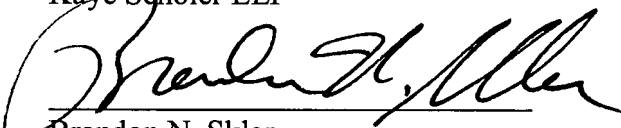
Allowance of the application in light of these Amendments and Remarks is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully Submitted
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